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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,077	11/07/2001	Takao Murakami	06753.0480	4727

7590 03/05/2003

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EXAMINER

DUVERNE, JEAN F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 03/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/986,077

Applicant(s)
Murakami et al

Examiner
Jean Duverne

Art Unit
2839



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 3, 2003
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emerson et al (US patent 4,351,582).

Emerson's device discloses a wire connecting connector comprising a first connecting body (41) having a protruding male terminal at A2 (see attachment), a second connecting body at 58 fitted to the first connecting body, the second connecting body having a protruding female terminal at 62 configured to receive the protruding male terminal (A2: see attachment) with a conducting wire connecting portion on the base end, the conducting wire or cable connecting portion (61: see col. 4, lines 5-64) configured to grip a conductive wire. However, Emerson's device fails to explicitly disclose the female terminal with the fork shape and the tip at the base end. Nevertheless, the male terminal has the fork shape at 66, 67, 68 and the tip at the base end and an acute angle at the tip end configured to grip a connecting wire, and a terminal receptor placed between the tip end and the base configured to receive the protruding male terminal. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

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to place the fork shape at male terminal with the tip at the base end and the acute angle at the tip end configured to grip a connecting wire instead of the female terminal, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art, In re Einstein, 8 USPTO 167.

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emerson (US patent 4,351,582) in view of Daoud et al (US patent 6,123,566).

In regard to claims 2, 4, Emmerson's device discloses the aforementioned limitations, but fails to explicitly disclose the engagement and disengagement means with rotational features for holding together the first and second connecting member. Daoud's device discloses the engagement and the disengagement means at 16, 38 with rotational features for holding together the first and second connecting member and the hole to receive to receive the projection. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the engagement and disengagement means with retaining hole, rotational features for holding together the first and second connecting member such as the one discloses in Daoud's device for improving the interconnection in Emerson's structure.

In regard to claim 3, Emmerson's device discloses the aforementioned limitations, but fails to explicitly disclose the positioning means. Daoud's device discloses the engagement and the disengagement means at 16, 38: at the engagement position defining the end of the rotation and at the disengagement defining the beginning of rotation (see figs. 3, 4). The disengagement serves as the positioning means for determining the rotating position between the first and the second

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connector. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the position means such as the one discloses in Daoud's device for improving the interconnection in Emerson's structure by controlling the rotating phases of the connecting bodies (first and second connecting bodies).

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment/arguments with respect to the claims 2-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendments: canceling the claim 1, amending claims 2, 5, and broadening the scope limitation of the claims necessitate the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean Duverne whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 0297 . The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild, can be reached on (703)308-2710. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308 - 7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JFD

February 24, 2003



Jean F. Duverne

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2839

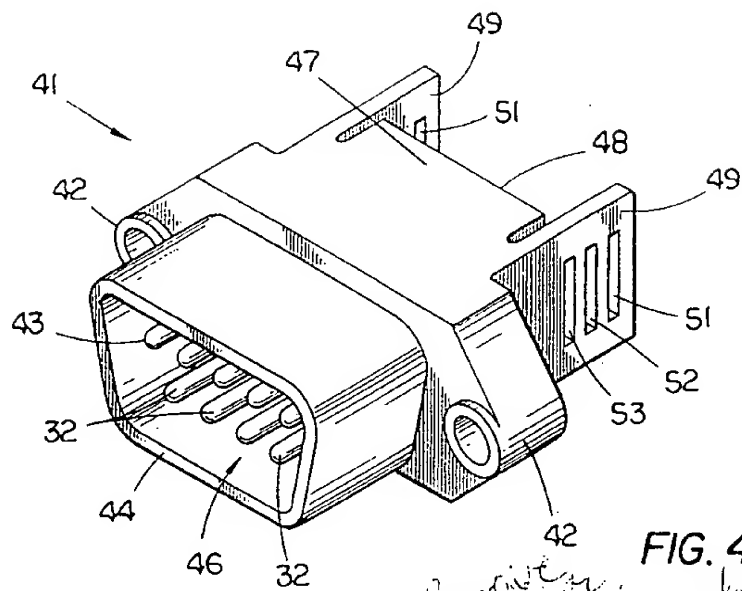


FIG. 4

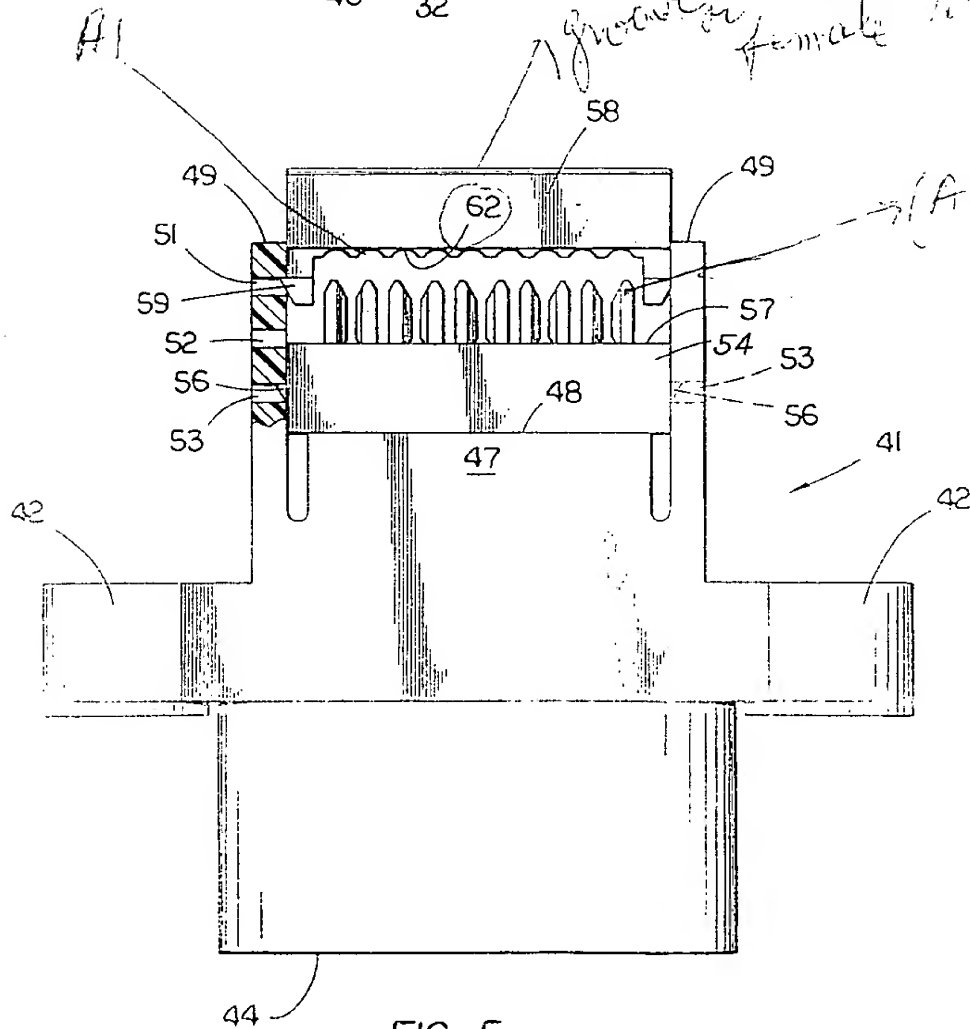


FIG. 5

